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FOREWORD

This special volume of *Theory and Applications of Categories* is dedicated to our colleague Professor Walter Tholen on the occasion of his 60th birthday and in appreciation of his remarkable contribution to various parts of general category theory and categorical algebra and topology[1].

The main dates from Walter's *curriculum vitae* are the following: Ph.D. from the University of Münster in 1974; Habilitation from Fernuniversität Hagen in 1978; Full Professor position at York University in Toronto from 1988. This period of more than 30 years has been full of success in his own research, in writing — of over 100 publications altogether, and in collaboration with colleagues from so many countries of the world. Walter also co-authored a monograph, and co-edited two books.

Walter's mathematical ideas and theorems speak about abstract adjoint functors and monadicity, factorization systems, closure operators, lax algebras and related structures of categorical topology, sophisticated exactness properties of Grothendieck descent and semi-abelian category theory, and many other things. We will not attempt to describe them even briefly, but simply propose instead the reading of Walter's papers which are listed below. They are always enlightening, precise and beautiful.

We thank the editors of *Theory and Applications of Categories* for the opportunity to prepare this volume.

The Guest Editors:
M. M. Clementino, G. Janelidze, J. Rosický, and R. Rosebrugh

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[1]We also note that in October of 2007 there was a workshop in Coimbra in honour of the 60'th birthdays of Walter Tholen and Jiří Adámek. A volume of *Cahiers de topologie et géometrie différentielle catégoriques* will honour Adámek's 60'th birthday.

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